III. Deputy Secretaries of Defense

PL 81-36, 2 April 1949, originally established this position as under secretary of defense. PL 81-216, 10 August 1949, the 1949 Amendments to the National Security Act of 1947, changed the title to deputy secretary of defense.

PL 92-596, 27 October 1972, established a second deputy position, with both deputies performing duties as prescribed by the secretary of defense. The second deputy position was not filled until December 1975. PL 95-140, 21 October 1977, the law establishing two under secretaries of defense, abolished the second deputy position.

By delegation the deputy secretary of defense has full power and authority to act for the secretary of defense and to exercise the powers of the secretary on any and all matters for which the secretary is authorized to act pursuant to the law.

- STEPHEN T. EARLY. U.S. Army in France, World War I. Professional journalist until 1933. Assistant to President Franklin D. Roosevelt, 1933-1945. Under secretary of defense, 2 May 1949 to 9 August 1949, when the position title changed. Deputy secretary of defense from 10 August 1949 to 30 September 1950.
- ROBERT A. LOVETT. Deputy secretary of defense from 4 October 1950 to 16 September 1951. Became secretary of defense on 17 September 1951. [See Secretaries of Defense]
- WILLIAM C. FOSTER. U.S. Army in World War I. Under secretary of commerce, 1946-1948.

 Administrator of the Economic Cooperation Administration, 1948-1951. Deputy secretary of defense from 24 September 1951 to 20 January 1953.
- ROGER M. KYES. Official with General Motors Corporation until sworn in as deputy secretary of defense on 2 February 1953; served until 1 May 1954. Returned to General Motors as vice president.
- ROBERT B. ANDERSON. Lawyer. Held various local government offices in Texas. Secretary of the Navy from 4 February 1953 until sworn in as deputy secretary of defense on 3 May 1954. Served until 4 August 1955. Secretary of the treasury, 1957-1961.
- REUBEN B. ROBERTSON, JR. U.S. Army in World War II. President of Champion Paper and Fibre Company. Vice chairman of the Committee on Business Organization of the Department of Defense, a task force of the Hoover Commission. Deputy secretary of defense from 5 August 1955 to 25 April 1957.
- DONALD A. QUARLES. U.S. Army in World War I. Engineer with Bell Telephone Laboratories from 1919. President of Sandia Corporation in 1952. Assistant secretary of defense (research and development) from 1 September 1953 to 14 August 1955. Secretary of the Air Force from 15 August 1955 to 30 April 1957. Became deputy secretary of defense 1 May 1957 and served until his death on 8 May 1959.
- THOMAS S. GATES, JR. U.S. Navy, 1942 to 1945. Under secretary of the Navy from 7 October 1953 to 31 March 1957. Secretary of the Navy from 1 April 1957 to 7 June 1959. Deputy secretary of defense from 8 June 1959 to 1 December 1959. [See Secretaries of Defense]
- JAMES H. DOUGLAS, JR. U.S. Army in 1918 and U.S. Army Air Forces, 1942-1945. Under secretary of the Air Force from 3 March 1953 to 30 April 1957. Served as secretary of the Air Force from 1 May 1957 to 11 December 1959. Deputy secretary of defense from 11 December 1959 to 24 January 1961.

- ROSWELL L. GILPATRIC. Practiced law, 1931-1951. Assistant secretary of the Air Force from 25 May 1951 to 29 October 1951. Under secretary of the Air Force from 29 October 1951 to 5 February 1953. Deputy secretary of defense from 24 January 1961 to 20 January 1964.
- CYRUS R. VANCE. U.S. Navy, 1942-1946. Special counsel of the Senate Armed Services Preparedness Investigating Subcommittee. General counsel of the Department of Defense, 1961-1962. Secretary of the Army, 1962-1964. Sworn in as deputy secretary of defense on 28 January 1964 and served until 30 June 1967.
- PAUL H. NITZE. Associated with Dillon, Read and Company, 1929-1937. Served in various capacities with the U.S. government during World War II before becoming director, then vice chairman, of the U.S. Strategic Bombing Survey, 1944-1946. U.S. Department of State, 1946-1953. Assistant secretary of defense (international security affairs), 1961-1963. Secretary of the Navy, 1963-1967. Sworn in as deputy secretary of defense on 1 July 1967 and served until 20 January 1969.
- DAVID PACKARD. Held executive offices in the Hewlett-Packard Company from 1939 to 1969, serving as president, 1947-1964, and chief executive officer, 1964-1969. Sworn in as deputy secretary of defense on 24 January 1969 and served until 13 December 1971.
- KENNETH RUSH. U.S. Ambassador to the Federal Republic of Germany, 1969-1972. Sworn in as deputy secretary of defense on 23 February 1972, and served until 29 January 1973, when he became deputy secretary of state.
- WILLIAM P. CLEMENTS, JR. Served as a member of the Department of Defense Blue Ribbon Defense Panel, 1969-1970. Sworn in as deputy secretary of defense on 30 January 1973 and served until 20 January 1977. Governor of Texas, 1979-1983, 1987-1991.
- ROBERT F. ELLSWORTH. Member of Congress from Kansas, 1961-1967. Sworn in on 23

 December 1975 to fill the position of second deputy secretary of defense, created by PL 92956 in 1972 but not previously filled. Served until 10 January 1977.
- CHARLES W. DUNCAN, JR. U.S. Army Air Forces, 1944-1946. Held various offices in the Coca-Cola Company, 1964-1974, becoming president in 1971. Sworn in as deputy secretary of defense on 31 January 1977 and served until 26 July 1979, when he became secretary of energy.
- W. GRAHAM CLAYTOR, JR. U.S. Navy, 1941-1946. Lawyer, Covington and Burling, 1938-1967. President and chairman of the Southern Railway Co., 1967-1977. Served as secretary of the Navy, 1977-1979. Acting secretary of transportation in 1979. Sworn in as deputy secretary of defense on 24 August 1979 and served until 16 January 1981.
- FRANK C. CARLUCCI. U.S. Navy, 1952-1954. Member of U.S. Foreign Service, 1956-1969. Under secretary of health, education, and welfare, 1972-1974. Ambassador to Portugal, 1975-1978. Deputy director of CIA, 1978-1981. Sworn in as deputy secretary of defense on 4 February 1981 and served until 31 December 1982. [See Secretaries of Defense]
- PAUL W. THAYER. Naval aviator in World War II, 1941-1945. With Chance Vought, which became LTV Aerospace Corporation, in various offices from 1951. Sworn in as deputy secretary of defense on 12 January 1983, and served until 4 January 1984.

- WILLIAM H. TAFT IV. Office of Management and Budget, 1970-1973. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, 1973-1977. General counsel of the Department of Defense, 1981-1984. Deputy secretary of defense, 3 February 1984 to 22 April 1989. Acting secretary of defense from Secretary Carlucci's departure on 20 January 1989 until the swearing in of Secretary of Defense Richard B. Cheney on 21 March 1989. Subsequently Permanent Representative of the United States to the North Atlantic Council.
- DONALD J. ATWOOD, JR. U.S. Army, 1943-1945. With General Motors Corporation from 1959 to 1985 in various executive positions. Sworn in as deputy secretary of defense on 24 April 1989 and served until 20 January 1993.
- WILLIAM J. PERRY. Deputy secretary of defense, 5 March 1993-3 February 1994, when he became secretary of defense. Served until 24 January 1997. [See Secretaries of Defense]
- JOHN M. DEUTCH. Systems analyst, Office of Secretary of Defense, 1961-1965. Taught at Princeton, 1967-1970, and MIT, 1970-1982. Served as MIT provost, 1985-1990. Under secretary of defense (acquisition and technology), 2 April 1993-11 March 1994. Deputy secretary of defense, 11 March 1994-10 May 1995.
- JOHN P. WHITE. Economist with Rand Corporation, 1968-1977. Assistant secretary of defense (MRA&L), 1977-1978. Deputy director, Office of Management and Budget, 1978-1981. With Interactive Systems Corporation, 1981-1988, Eastman Kodak Company, 1988-1992. Director of the Center for Business and Government, Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University. Chairman of the Commission on Roles and Missions of the Armed Forces, 1994-1995. Served as deputy secretary of defense, 22 June 1995-15 July 1997.
- JOHN J. HAMRE. Congressional Budget Office, 1978-1984. Staff member, Senate Armed Services Committee, 1984-1993. Under secretary of defense (comptroller), 26 October 1993-29 July 1997. Deputy secretary of defense, 29 July 1997-31 March 2000.
- RUDY DE LEON. Legislative assistant, U.S. Senate, 1974-1977. Legislative assistant, U.S. House of Representatives, 1977-1985. Professional staff member, House Armed Services Committee, 1985-1989. Staff director, House Armed Services Committee, 1989-1993. Special assistant to the secretary of defense, 1993-1994. Under secretary of the Air Force, 1994-1997. Under secretary of defense (personnel and readiness), 1997-2000. Deputy secretary of defense, 31 March 2000-1 March 2001.
- PAUL D. WOLFOWITZ. U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, 1973-1977. Deputy assistant secretary of defense for regional programs, 1977-1980. State Department, 1981-1986. Ambassador to Indonesia, 1986-1989. Under secretary of defense (policy), 1989-1993. Dean, Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, 1993-2001. Deputy secretary of defense, 2 March 2001-